

**Compton Chamberlayne
War Graves Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3164 PRIVATE

J. HOWARD

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH MARCH, 1917 Age 18

James HOWARD

James Howard was born at Scott's Creek, Victoria in 1897 to parents Robert & Mary Howard (nee Porter).

James Howard was educated at Scott's Creek State School, Victoria.

James Howard was aged 18 years & 10 months, single & a Labourer from Scott's Creek, via Timboon, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 20th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3164 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Howard of Scott's Creek, Victoria. As James Howard was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Robert & Mary Howard both signed their consent.

Private James Howard was posted to 18th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion on 17th November, 1916. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 59th Battalion on 27th November, 1916.

Private James Howard embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 with the 59th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & was admitted to the Ship's hospital on 10th January, 1917 for a period of 13 days with measles. He disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Private James Howard was marched into the 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917 from Australia.

Private James Howard was sent sick to Fovant Hospital on 1st March, 1917 from 15th Training Battalion. He was admitted to Fovant Hospital on 2nd March, 1917 cause – N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Private James Howard died at 11 p.m. on 18th March, 1917 of Broncho Pneumonia at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire, England.

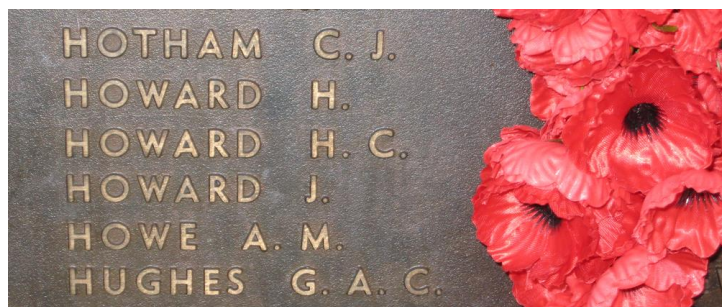
A death for a James Howard, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private James Howard was buried in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England on 22nd March, 1917 – Middle Row, Grave Plot #9. From the burial report of Private James Howard – Coffin was oak with black metal fittings & name plate. Private Howard was given a Military Funeral.

Private James Howard was entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque (August, 1922) were sent to Private Howard's parents – Mr & Mrs Howard at Scott's Creek, Victoria.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Howard – service number 3164, aged 18, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Robert and Mary Howard, of Scotts Creek, Victoria.

Private J. Howard is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.

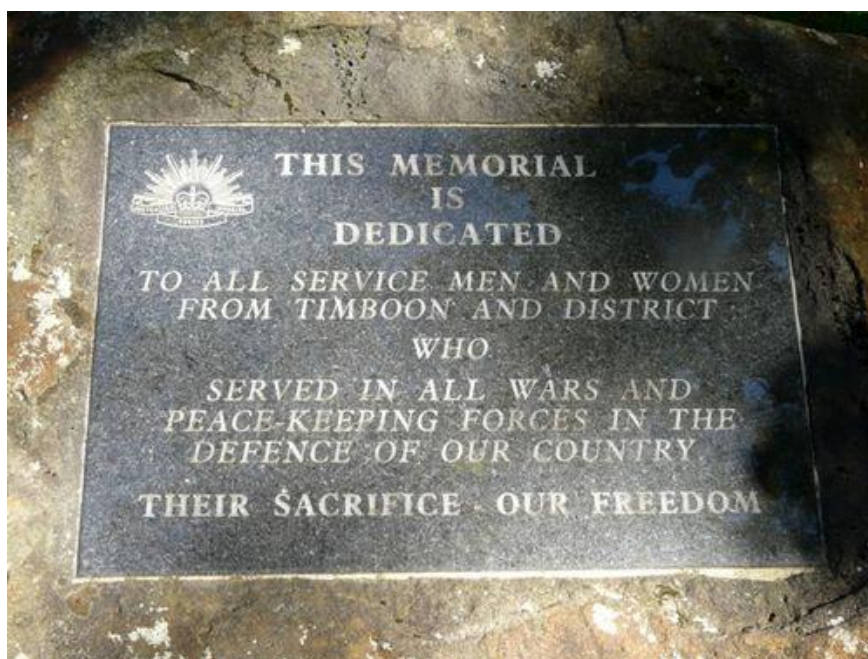


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



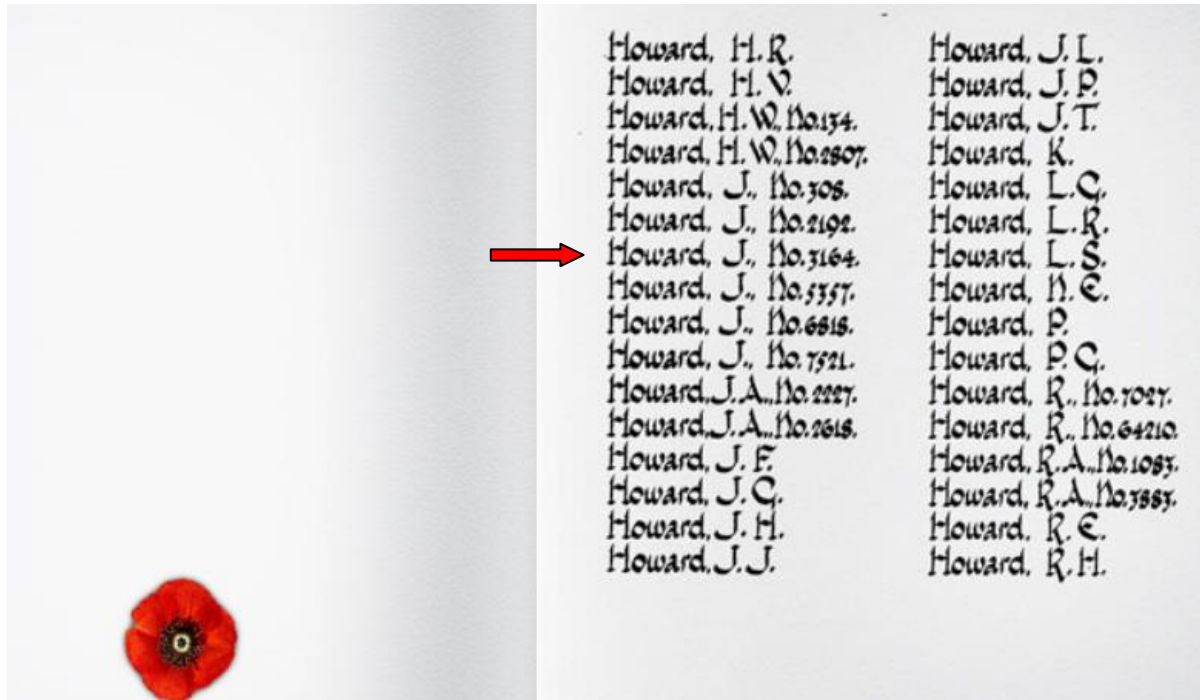
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Timboon & Districts War Memorial does not have individual names & is located on Timboon-Curdievale Road, Timboon, Victoria.



Timboon & Districts War Memorial *(Photo by Graeme Saunders – Monument Australia)*

J. Howard is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(49 pages of Private James Howard's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



*** Private Charles Tull (3245) embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 16th March, 1917.

Private James Howard (3164) also embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 18th March, 1917.

Private Thomas Henry William White also embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 25th March, 1917

Private Howard & Private Tull & Private White are buried next to each other in Middle Row – plots 8, 9 & 10 in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery.



Newspaper Reports

On The Field Of Honour – Died Of Illness

Pte Howard, J. Scott's Creek

(*The Ballarat Courier*, Victoria – Saturday 31st March, 1917)

Message From The Sea

Whilst at Apollo Bay last week Messrs Nicholas & List picked up a bottle on the beach about a couple of miles distant from the jetty. The bottle was covered with barnacles, and bore evidence of having been in the water for some considerable time. Upon being opened it was found to contain a letter, which read as follows: - "Dear Friends, - I am at sea living well, so don't worry; I'll be back to Australia some day (D.V.). If anybody picks up this letter send it to Mrs Robert Howard, Victoria, via Timboon, Scott's Creek. From Private Jas. Howard." The letter was forwarded to Mrs Howard as the writer requested, and a reply has been received from her by Mr J Fairbairn, of Apollo Bay, thanking them for sending the letter to her. She gives details concerning the writer, the sad part of which is that he paid the supreme sacrifice having died of pneumonia in a military hospital. It is somewhat singular that the bottle should have been washed ashore at a point on the Victorian coastline so near to Scott's Creek, the home of the writer. Apollo Bay.

(*Warrnambool Standard*, Victoria – Thursday 5th July, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private J. Howard does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The photo below was found next to Private James Howard's headstone in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



Private James Howard

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Compton Chamberlayne War Graves *(Photo from CWGC)*



Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Photo of Private J. Howard's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



(Photo taken c March, 1919)

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

Back row, left to right: 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

Front row: 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.

Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations



British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave		Middle Row	Grave		Back Row	Grave	
<i>Public</i>	1		Oliver	1			1	
<i>Public</i>	2		Knowles	2		<i>Public</i>	2	
	Haywood	3		Skipper	3		Turner	3
	Gilbert	4		Wehrmann	4		Evans	4
	Le Tisser	5		Park	5		Dreckow	5
	Jones	6		Riley	6		Cass	6
	Cook	7		Turnbull	7		Arnold	7
	Pairman	8		White	8		Sillar	8
		9		Howard	9		Ross	9
	Norris	10		Tull	10		Finn	10
	Lintott	11		Snell	11		McCarthy	11
	Redman	12		Ferrow	12		Trengove	12
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>				13	
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>				14	
<i>Public</i>						Walsh	15	
							16	
						Hooper	17	
							18	
						Larkin	19	